

Local Agency Conference Call Minutes

March 1, 2012

In attendance: Denise Higgins, Corrine Kyler, Michelle Sanchez, Chris Fogelman, Leah Steinle, Bree Thompson, Tara Ray, Carrie Reynolds, Broadwater LA, Cascade LA, Custer LA, Dawson LA, Deer Lodge LA, Fergus LA, Flathead LA, Gallatin LA, Hill LA, Lake LA, Lewis and Clark LA, Missoula LA, Ravalli LA, Sanders LA, Sheridan LA, Silver Bow LA, Teton LA, Valley LA, Riverstone LA, Fort Peck LA, Northern Cheyenne LA, Crow Agency LA, Salish and Kootenai LA, Fort Belknap LA and Rocky Boy LA

Roll Call-Bree

Program Updates-Carrie

- Formula Rebid
 - We hope to know by May 15 what the formula is for the WSCA contract (what formula will be the standard formula for MT WIC)
 - If that date is met, the new contract could be in place by October 1
 - The state office will assist retailers with the transition as well as the rollout in general
- WIC Future Study Group Meeting-January 31, 2012.
 - A letter was received by the large caucus that expressed concerns about residency requirements, redemption procedures for the FVB and the definition of breastfeeding
 - The letter and state office's response is available on the website in the WFSG section
 - Changes to monitoring were also discussed at the meeting
 - The state office has found that some local agencies receive many and the same findings on multiple monitoring reports
 - We are in the process of changing the monitoring process to include actions based on findings
 - It will be presented to the WFSG in April
 - Meeting minutes are available on the website in the WFSG section
- Revising State Plan Chapter 5
 - Over the last few months, the state office has been revising Chapter 5 of the State Plan to clarify and consolidate policy
 - The final draft will be ready in the next few weeks and will be attached to the newsletter for Local Agency staff review and comments
- Cost Containment
 - Right now, WIC has a projected shortfall of over one million in food dollars
 - The state office looked at approaches to make food dollars go as far as they can without creating waiting lists
 - The goal is to save \$100,000/month
 - The state office submitted the following cost containment proposal: store brand if available (savings of \$6/food package or \$90,000/month) and removing canned beans (\$20,000/month)
 - Other states in our region have already made cuts
 - The numbers were pulled to see who was buying what
 - We are waiting for guidance in order to move forward and the cost containment plan has NOT been approved and local agencies will be informed as soon as we know the final approved plan
 - Once the a plan is approved, the state office will provide information and materials that explain the new guidelines

Overlapping Benefits and One day Benefits-Leah

- Overlapping Benefits
 - If you see benefits with overlapping dates (i.e. - 2/15 to 3/15 and then 3/15 to 4/14) you may give these to participants. This is a result of the leap year. You will not be charged any over issuance for these benefits
- One day benefits
 - If you see one day benefits (valid for one day) you may NOT give these to participants. There is no way to uncheck them so they must be printed and voided. Please follow your local agency voiding procedures.
 - The state office may look into over issuance payments if many of these benefits are issued and paid after today's call

Montana Medicaid Incentives to Prevent Chronic Disease Program-Leah

- The Montana Medicaid Incentives to Prevent Chronic Disease Program enrolls high-risk adult Medicaid beneficiaries for a program that aims to decrease type 2 diabetes and heart disease. This program offers financial incentives to promote the program goal.
- If you see a participant who is participating in this program and the incentives receive make them over income, DO NOT count the incentives as income.
- If the participant is enrolled in the program and adjunctively eligible, follow regular procedures

State Ordered Medical Formula-Chris

- Some agencies are reporting difficulty finding Pregestimil or the cost is very high at retailers
 - High retailer cost will cause the check to bounce for being over the maximum amount allowed and causes a fee for both the retailer and WIC
- If a store has to order Pregestimil, it may be more effective for them to get it through the state and cost less. This is especially true if the store charges shipping fees
- Question-Will Medicaid pay?
 - Probably, but it depends on the prescription from the health care provider and approval may take some time

FCHB Conference and NWA Conference-Chris

- Family and Community Health Bureau Conference, April 17-19, Billings, MT
 - See the newsletter (2/27/12) for registration information, agenda and CEU sheet
 - If you attend, there is opportunity to get all your CEU credits for the year
- NWA Conference, May 20-23, Denver, CO
 - The agenda and registration information is available at www.nwica.org
 - CEU credits are also available if you plan on attending this conference

Outreach Ideas-Tara

- After visits with people from partner programs, some outreach ideas have surfaced
 - Go to job fairs and pass out materials. People in the food and hospitality industries can be lower income but may not know they are eligible for WIC
 - Have information available at day care and child care centers, after school programs and summer camps

Formula Fraud-Bree

- If it is believed that a participant is selling formula, it is difficult and time consuming to prove that the participant received the formula through WIC
- There are a couple of resources that are available to you in the March 5 newsletter
 - A poster that focuses on why it's unsafe to give your child formula not purchased from a store and an insert that reiterates the rights and responsibilities
 - A possibility is to work with retailers in your area to put a black line through the barcode. This is not an expectation for any retailer.

Farm Direct - Bree

- Training materials were sent out but page 2 was missing
 - It was sent out via email and is available on the website
 - Send Bree an email (BThompson2@mt.gov) if you didn't get the email so she can update her contact list
 - If you would like to participate or would like to opt out, please call Bree (406-444-2841)
- Benefits will be ordered soon
- Conduct training ASAP as it must be face to face
 - When conducting training, make sure to ask farmers if they still have their stamps, pennants and signs

Contracts-Michelle and Corrine

- The first contract will end June 30, 2012
- In the March 5 newsletter, there will be a form that requires you estimate the funds you will use for the duration of the contract as well as estimate what funds you will not use by June 30 as those funds will be moved to the second contract. This form is due April 27.
 - If you not estimate what funds will not spent, they will not move to the second contract. Therefore, all funds must be allocated by June 30.
 - New contracts will be send out May 1 to May 15
 - Once finalized, no changes can be made
 - Any performance bonuses received will be included in this contract
- Please share this information with your financial person as it imperative everything be turned in on time
- Question-Why two contracts this year?
 - The master contract runs on the state fiscal year and must be renewed every seven years. The state fiscal year ends on June 30. The federal fiscal year ends on September 30, which is the fiscal year your WIC contract follows. This is why you can carry forward your 1st contract funds.

Next Call – Thursday, May 3, 2012